

tion of Kirkwood's analogy to the planets of the system, it follows, that, in their present condition, they present that nice adaptation of parts which is necessary to produce in the whole the harmony noticed by Mr. Kirkwood. This nice adaptation of parts they must have had in any primitive state differing from the present. To such a state our attention is unavoidably drawn by the necessity of introducing into Kirkwood's formula, the diameter of their sphere of attraction, derived from the nebular hypothesis.

The stated business of the meeting, the balloting for candidates for membership, was postponed in consequence of there not being the requisite quorum of members present.

Pending nominations, Nos. 226 to 231, inclusive, were read.

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*Stated Meeting, August 17.*

Present, eight members.

Dr. PATTERSON, President, in the Chair.

Letters were received and read:—

From the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia; and from Gen. Jos. G. Totten, announcing donations to the Society.

The following donations were announced:—

FOR THE LIBRARY.

Reports, &c. of the Smithsonian Institution, exhibiting the Plans, Operations and Financial Condition, up to January 1, 1849. From the Third Annual Report of the Board of Regents. Presented to Congress, Feb. 19, 1849. Washington. 8vo.—*From the Institution.*

Another copy of the same.—*From Dr. Dunglison.*

An Account of the Observatory at Pulkova, as written for the North American Review. July, 1849.—*From the Author, B. A. Gould, Jr.*

Astronomical Observations made at the Radcliffe Observatory, Oxford, in the year 1847. By Manuel J. Johnson, M.A. Radcliffe Observer. Vol. VIII. Published by order of the Radcliffe Trustees. Oxford, 1849. 8vo.—*From the Radcliffe Trustees.*

Circular prepared by direction of the Hon. Wm. Ballard Preston, Secretary of the Navy, in relation to the Astronomical Expedition to Chili. By Lieut. M. F. Maury, U. S. N., Superintendent of

- the National Observatory. Washington, 1849. 4to.—*From Lieut. J. M. Gilliss, U. S. N.*
- Papers on Practical Engineering. Published by the Engineer Department, for the use of the United States Corps of Engineers. Vol. I. No. 4. Description of a System of Military Bridges with India Rubber Pontons. Prepared for the United States Army, by Capt. Geo. W. Cullum, United States Engineers. 1849. 8vo.—*From Gen. J. G. Totten.*
- The African Repository and Colonial Journal. Vol. XXV. No. 8. Aug. 1849. Washington. 8vo.—*From the American Colonization Society.*
- Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society. Vol. IV. No. 1. 1849. 8vo.—*From the Society.*
- A Sketch of the Events which preceded the Capture of Washington, by the British, on the 24th of August, 1814. Philadelphia. 1849. 8vo.—*From the Author, E. D. Ingraham, Esq.*
- Journal of the Franklin Institute. Third Series. Vol. XVIII. No. 2. Aug. 1849. Philadelphia. 8vo.—*From the Institute.*
- The Medical News and Library. Vol. VII. No. 80. Aug. 1849. Philadelphia. 8vo.—*From Lea and Blanchard.*

Mr. Justice read an extract of a letter from Merz & Son, of Munich, in relation to a new parallactic telescope recently constructed by them, with many new improvements. It admits of an unusually extensive change of elevation, being applicable to a great extent of latitude, and the whole is calculated for mounting upon stone.

Mr. Justice made some observations on the late extraordinary rise in the Mississippi river, which he was inclined to attribute to a partial elevation of the coast and a consequent rise in the bed of the river.

He thought facts corroborated the opinion of a general rising of the coast of the river, being the cause of the overflow. The channel of the river opposing less resistance to the influence of the upheaving cause, became more flexed than the surface of the surrounding country, and hence the long continued and great discharge of water through the crevasse, at a time when no unusual floods had reached the Mississippi from its tributaries.

Dr. Patterson announced the death of Albert Gallatin, the oldest surviving member of this Society, who died at New York, on the 13th instant, in the 90th year of his age.